

Dublin October 23 - 1857

My dear friend - Mr. (Pear) Nichol writes  
to me lately on the part of a Glasgow publisher  
to ask me to write for pay biographical notices  
of the most eminent English Anti-Slavery writers  
for a Biographical Dictionary, which he is about  
to bring out. With his consent I have handed over the  
affair to a very clever & experienced, known to my  
Chapman & P. Pillsbury, who has greater facilities &  
more time than I have. At the same time Mr  
Nichol said that unfortunately the whole American  
nation has been handed over to the Editor of the  
North American Review who, to say the least, is no  
Christian, and would not be likely to do justice to  
such of them as ought to appear in the book.  
I wrote a strong remonstrance to the Publisher  
through Mr Nichol & said I was sure the thing  
could be properly done by some who possessed  
facilities information, free to authorities, & are  
abstemious of any disabling prejudice which the Editor  
could lay no claim to. To day I have a letter  
from Mr Nichol, from which I take the following:-  
'With respect to the Am. Abolitionists the Doctor (his  
husband) is fully alive to the importance of the  
question & so is Mr Mackenzie (the publisher) if  
we may judge by the terms in which he spoke  
of it in conversation last evening. The reminder  
that a true & good biography of these men-ferris,  
Phillips, &c would be an important feature in the  
dictionary for no account would they be en-  
trusted to hostile hands. I named some suggestions  
that Samuel May should write them, which he  
seemed to approve. Whether he will agree to write  
to Brown [Editor of the N. A. Review] & tell him  
that there will be done by S. May, I am not sure  
but in the mean time Mr Nichol wishes me to say



that he would much like you wd write to May  
and tell him of the probability that he will be  
applied to to do them & enquire if he will under-  
take them telling him the same of the work &  
the necessity of confusion, & requesting him  
to write a ~~sketch~~ sketch of Mr. W. Chapman, at  
one of the places it dwell there (Dr. Nichol, Observatory  
Glasgow) as his letter (C) came in speedily, & with  
not a word of correspondence to & from, and the  
allusion as to who shall write her, ought  
Adam Ballou to have a notice & who among our  
friends besides do we think ought to? I will  
enclose a list of those ~~I think ought to~~ that have  
troubled me. Strike out & add to as you see  
right. Will you be so good as to send me the  
exact address of Samuel May, as our work-  
enquise should write to him himself, or  
to the Brown that I know to do them. I am  
glad to find Mackenzie quite alive to Brown's  
inqualification for doing them.

So ends Mr Nichol - and now you  
know as much as I do his names as as  
follows: -

Jessie	8.	Thomas Garrett	7.	John Rankin.
Phillips	15.	H. C. Wright	22.	
x <del>W. W. Chapman</del>	1.	Theodore Weld	20.	
Mr. Knott	13.	Mr. Stow	19.	
Mr. Foster	5.	C. Follen	4.	S. J. May Wm. Fay
Leving	17.	x Mr. Child	2.	
S. Smith	18.	Whittier	21.	
Siddings	9.	J. Parker	14.	A. Ballou C. Burleigh Beriah Green A. E. Grimké (with T. Weld)
x C. W. May	3.	J. F. Holmes	10.	
J. Jackson	11.	Loring, Elijah P.	12.	
Pillsbury.	16.	Foster	6	



I doubt whether it would do in such a book  
to name any who have not written or pub-  
lished something remarkable - but you are  
good sense requires no help from me. I think  
very spontaneously things be taken to put the  
names of the chief abolitionists before the British  
public so as to make them as far as possible  
household words - You can write to Dr. Keble  
& suggest any you think proper. The book is  
to be in 3 vols. imperial octavo, brevier type  
double columns. The price 20/- per copy. But  
I look on it as a thing that ought to be  
done & I know no one so good as you  
for the work. I mean to write to nobody  
else about it whatever - so that the whole  
matter can be a secret between the friends,  
the publishers & yourself.

I saw Miss Estlin last week on her return  
from a visit to the English Lakes & she  
had a good time in the few last  
days of the Manchester Exhibition.

I send you the A. E. G. for July.  
At the end of the first article is an  
allusion to John Russett's friends as  
inquiries sent me by H. C. Wright &  
procured for him by one of our agents whose  
name I cannot recall. Mrs. Chapman  
will know it I doubt not as it was in  
connection of another allusion by her to the



I am fast in a letter of mine that I made  
 the remarks in question. Now I have  
 been brought to account by Russell H. Carpenter  
 & Maria Webb, who declare the statements  
 to be utterly false and the Webb say my  
 informant an mean & contemptible for  
 trying to undermine Fisher's influence by  
 insinuating falsehoods. I believe them to be  
 true, but will thank you to enquire further  
 that we know of it is the case as Maria states  
 that Julia holds a mortgage on my bond  
 of Frederick's property, which is all I want  
 to know. I don't care two hells for Russell  
 or Maria - but would like to be able to put  
 them down. They are good as around their  
 bettered liability to the Am. G. S. but seem  
 to think they should be allowed to say what  
 they like & set no tail for them but

The Dublin Regatta was gone today - I  
 hope we may have the Delaware in time  
 but it is out of our power to hasten it as  
 it depends on the travellers coming & on  
 the slow movements of the high & mighty  
 London house. Will you attend at once to  
 the ~~London~~ Julia affairs. I think the great  
 was Aaron Porch who gave H. C. W. chapter  
 of verse. Yours ever in great haste  
 Rich D Webb

with emphasis to S. H. says not to do otherwise  
 Henry Russell's Standard Edition